

A/can BLAST computer program, which has been described in the art (see, e.g., Altschul *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* **215**:403-10 (1990) and Altschul *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* **25**:3389-3402 (1997)).

Please replace the paragraph on page 37, lines 3-8 with the following amended paragraph:

A/can *C. viterbiensis* type strain JW/MS-VS5^T was deposited on August 27, 1999 with the ATCC under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Micro-organisms for Purpose of Patent Procedure and is designated as ATCC PTA-584. "ATCC" refers to the American Type Culture Collection international depository located at 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209. The designations refer to the accession number of the deposited material.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 5-45 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 46-59 as follows:

46. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is cultured under anaerobic conditions.

A/B 47. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is cultured under nitrogen.

48. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is cultured under argon.

Su/B 49. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is cultured under a mixture of nitrogen and carbon dioxide in a ratio of about 80 to about 20.

50. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is cultured in the presence of an oxygen scavenger.

51. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is cultured in an anaerobic chamber.

52. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is cultured under microaerobic conditions.

53. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein the collected 1,3-propanediol is further purified.

54. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the genome of the thermophilic organism is at least 95% identical to the genome of the organism deposited as ATCC designation PTA-584.

55. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the genome of the thermophilic organism is at least 99% identical to the genome of the organism deposited as ATCC designation PTA-584.

56. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the 16S rDNA sequence of the thermophilic organism is at least 95% identical to the 16S rDNA of the organism deposited as ATCC designation PTA-584.

57. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the 16S rDNA sequence of the thermophilic organism is at least 99% identical to the 16S rDNA of the organism deposited as ATCC designation PTA-584.

58. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is adsorbed on a solid support.

59. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermophilic organism is cultured under aerobic conditions.